UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social
Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.4/Sub.2/1998/34
3 August 1998

Original: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Sub-Commission on Prevention of
Discrimination and Protection
of Minorities
Fiftieth session
Agenda item 2

QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS, INCLUDING POLICIES OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AND SEGREGATION AND OF APARTHEID, IN ALL COUNTRIES, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO COLONIAL AND OTHER DEPENDENT COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES: REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMISSION UNDER COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS RESOLUTION 8 (XXIII)

Letter dated 3 August 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Chairman of the Sub-Commission

I have the honour to transmit herewith* the text of the statement of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia of 20 April 1998 on the false propaganda campaign launched by the leadership of Azerbaijan.

I would be grateful if you would circulate the present letter and the above-mentioned statement as an official document of the fiftieth session of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities under item 2 of the agenda.

(Signed): Karen NAZARIAN
Permanent Representative

* The attachment is circulated as received, in the language of submission only.

Statement issued on 20 April 1998

Recently, the leadership of Azerbaijan has launched a new campaign of lies and slander against Armenia and its people.

At one moment Azerbaijan disseminates various false accusations, at another it puts forward absurd claims to the territory of almost the whole of our country, at yet others, as if in a mockery of history and common sense, it claims the Azerbaijani people to be a victim of genocide.

The aim of these propagandistic steps, taken at the State level, is to achieve a solution of the Karabagh problem in line with Azerbaijan's own scenario, and to attempt to erase from the memory of mankind the crime of genocide planned and committed against Armenians throughout the present century over the whole of the territory of Nagorny-Karabagh, including its former capital, Shusha, as well as in Sumgait, Baku, Gyanja and other towns. Such propaganda also has an impact on the psychology of the Azerbaijani people, arousing unhealthy passions and unfounded hopes, and this in turn prevents the Azerbaijani leadership from pursuing flexible approaches in the negotiating process.

Armenia categorically condemns the destructive steps being taken by the Azerbaijani authorities, which are preventing the process of peaceful settlement of the Karabagh conflict. Their position bears witness to the unrealistic intentions of the Azerbaijani side and calls into question the possibility of advancing the negotiating process.